

Anaphylaxis and Food Allergies

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction with symptoms which may cause rapid death. Causes may be sensitivity to a wide range of triggers including but not limited to; insect bites (usually bee or wasp stings), foods, pollen, medications, vapors from chemicals and/or latex.

The Ridgefield Public Schools is committed to maintaining the health and safety of every child in the district. The prevention and management of exposure to life-threatening food allergies is a paramount student safety concern.

Once you notify the school nurse of your child's allergy, the nurse will develop an Individual Health Care Plan and add an alert into SNAP (the student's electronic Medical record). The school nurse will also notify the cafeteria staff of the allergy. Parents can then contact the district Food Services Manager to discuss menu options for their student. You are also entitled to a 504 review to see if your child qualifies for 504 accommodations.

In order to prevent possible exposure to allergens, please provide the following:

1. Two or more small pictures of your child. These will be given to those school personnel who are involved with your child's education during the school day.
2. A signed order form from your child's doctor with instructions that the school is to follow in the event that your child experiences an allergic reaction while at school. Please click [here](#) for a copy of the [Severe Allergy Emergency Health Care Plan](#).
3. Please provide the appropriate medication needed for your child at school (e.g. benadryl, epinephrine pen). The medication must be packaged in the ORIGINAL PHARMACY CONTAINER, clearly labeled with your child's name, the authorized prescriber's name, and the medication name. Over-the-counter medications must be delivered in an unopened, properly labeled container. **ALL medications must be delivered to school by a responsible adult.** In addition, you and your child's health care provider must complete and sign the [Medication Authorization Form](#).

The school nurse would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss your child's allergy, and how we can implement a personalized health management plan for your child.

Every effort is made to provide the safest environment possible. Your cooperation and support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the nurse at your child's school.